

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Original) A 0.75-power computing apparatus, comprising: inverse number computing means for computing an inverse number of an input value; first -0.5 -power computing means for computing the -0.5 -power of said input value; multiplication means for computing a product between a computed result of said inverse number computing means and a computed result of said -0.5 -power computing means; and second -0.5 -power computing means for computing the -0.5 -power of a computed result of said multiplication means.
3. (Original) The 0.75-power computing apparatus according to claim 2, being used for a coding method employing the computation of the 0.75-power.
4. (Original) The 0.75-power computing apparatus according to claim 3, being used for an audio signal quantization device quantizing a transformed audio signal by using the computation of the 0.75-power.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently Amended) A 0.75-power computing method, comprising:
a first step for computing, on a computer, an inverse number of an input value;
a second step for computing, on the computer, the -0.5 -power of said input value;
a third step for computing, on the computer, a product between a computed result at said first step and a computed result at said second step; and
a fourth step for computing, on the computer, the -0.5 -power of a computed result at said third step.

7. (Currently Amended) The 0.75-power computing method according to claim 6, being used for a coding method employing the computation of the 0.75-power for coding data to be output external to the computer.

8. (Currently Amended) The 0.75-power computing method according to claim 7, being used for an audio signal quantization device quantizing a transformed audio signal to be output external to the computer by using the computation of the 0.75-power.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A program ~~that is executed on a computer, comprising:~~ product having machine readable program code for performing 0.75-power computing, the program code, when executed, causing a machine to perform the following steps:

- a first step for computing an inverse number of an input value;
- a second step for computing the -0.5-power of said input value;
- a third step for computing a product between a computed result at said first step and a computed result at said second step; and
- a fourth step for computing the -0.5-power of a computed result at said third step.

11. (Currently Amended) The program product according to claim 10, being used for a coding method employing the computation of the 0.75-power.

12. (Currently Amended) The program product according to claim 11, being used for an audio signal quantization device quantizing a transformed audio signal by using the computation of the 0.75-power.